

*Fiorello La Guardia, a Biography* by Bella Rodman in collaboration with Philip Sterling: Hill and Wang Inc., 1962.

Any teacher who has had the experience of talking to young students about the New Deal and the 1929 depression recognizes the fact that many of them regard the New Deal period as ancient history. In fact, Fiorello La Guardia himself has already become a figure only vaguely recalled, if at all.

In this biography, the authors have written a readable account of the color and turbulence of an era, as well as the personal history of this famous mayor of New York. The background that made La Guardia is of interest to the teacher and the sociologist in many ways. What he lived through in World War I, in the depression and after, will be of interest to students as well.

La Guardia was a remarkable mayor. In a city like New York, which has been ill-served by many men, the acts of his regime created a series of sensations. The intensity of his activity and the degree of his personal involvement in the affairs of the city are well described in this book. The emotional fervor he brought to the practice of politics is also well-chronicled here.

The chief criticism that could be made of this volume is that it is not a critical biography in any sense. It is partisan and open in its admiration for Mayor La Guardia. Even with this limitation, it is so well-written and so easily read, that I believe it should be recommended without equivocation.

ARNOLD GOREN  
New York University

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